

**Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 17, 2012**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Stamford Board of Education, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room**

***Council Members Present:***

Behm, Tricia	Stamford Public Schools
Brennan, Karen	United Way of Western CT
Burke, Jennienne Peoples	Care to Care (Family Centers)
D'Luc, Imelda	Childcare Learning Centers
Feder, Karen	Abilis
Garcia, Maritza	Adult Learning Center
Hallsisey, Jennifer (Chair)	United Way of Western CT
Pomerantz, Erica	Child FIRST
Rauh, Polly	Board of Education
Reardon, Ellen	Stamford Museum and Nature Center
Rigano, Sue	Stamford Public Education Foundation
Sabia, Michele	Stamford Public Schools
Sandahl, Margo	Stamford Public Schools
Wenz, Karen	First Presbyterian Nursery School

***Advisors:***

Ahuja, Sonja	William Casper Graustein Memorial Fund/ICOR Corp.
Cammarota, Karen	Grants Department, City of Stamford
Garvin-Kester, Barbara	Childcare Learning Centers
Sargent, Carol	William Pitt Child Development Center
Tarantino, Sherry	Sacred Heart School

***Guests:***

Gutierrez, Kari	Childcare Learning Centers
Swan, Ellen	Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Jennifer Hallsisey welcomed everyone and thanked Polly Rauh, and the Board of Education, for hosting today's meeting. She also shared the news that the Executive Committee affirmed her to assume the role of Council Chair.

**II. Approval of Minutes from September 2012 Meeting**

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the September meeting.

### **III. Announcements**

- Sue Rigano distributed a flyer for the Reading is FUNdamental book giveaway to be held on November 17 at the Ferguson Library. This program is designed to put books into the hands of children who don't have access to them. This afternoon is for children in grades K-5, and any siblings who might come.
- Jennienne Burke shared that Care to Care held their first mini-conference for 25 providers on October 16. It had a technology focus and was very successful.
- Ellen Reardon reminded everyone that the Stamford Museum and Nature Center's Harvest Festival would be held the weekend of October 20-21.

### **IV. Old Business**

- Karen Brennan showed a PowerPoint slide show of pictures from the very successful October 9/10 Powerful Interactions conference with Judy Jablon at UConn Stamford. Initial feedback from Council members who attended (and their staff) indicates how powerful the day was. Our thanks to all those who took the time to facilitate our small table groups, or who helped in other ways through donations and time. A full written summary will be available at next month's meeting.
- The Early Childhood Fair Committee met on Monday, October 15. It was agreed that the purpose of the Fair is to educate the community on preschool options in Stamford and the Stamford Public School registration processes. With this in mind, the Committee recommends that the Fair be held in the fall of 2013 instead of next spring. Next steps include reaching out to all Stamford preschools and family home day care centers to assess interest in a fall fair. We'll also attempt to identify possible locations (e.g., Mill River Park and Chelsea Piers) and partnerships with community members hosting fall programs.
- As part of the Fair discussion, Polly Rauh shared that we will be able to secure free parking passes for the Cove should we decide to continue to use this location.
- Polly also introduced the question of reaching families whose children are born in Stamford and are coming to school speaking little or no English. Karen Feder shared that Abilis has a number of early literacy programs to help these children. This is a topic of great interest to Council members, and due to time constraints, we'll revisit at a future meeting.

### **V. New Business**

- Karen Cammarota reported that the number of candidates for the School Readiness liaison position had been narrowed down from 33 to 19. The Mayor has been calling candidates and a decision will be made shortly.
- Karen Cammarota shared that the City has once again applied for Quality Enhancement funds in the amount of \$65,335 to enhance early childhood programs. The application proposes to continue to contract with Family Centers to provide training and outreach for home daycares, professional development for the health educator, and support for a nurse practitioner at the William Pitt Child Development Center. Karen asked for a vote to approve the resolution. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

- Jennifer led the Council in a brief strategic planning discussion as a first step in focusing us on next steps we can take as a group. Using the community assessment document we completed in April for the Graustein Memorial Fund application, we attempted to identify current activities and partners who are providing services in early childhood education. The Executive Committee will meet on Monday, October 22 to continue this discussion.

## **VI. Regular Reports**

- Reports from Sacred Heart and CLC were sent to the Council in advance of the meeting and are included here as Addendums.

## **VII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at  
Family Centers, 60 Palmers Hill Road.**

## **Addendum A: Childcare Learning Centers Report, September 2012**

- Program Utilization
  - a. Authorized Capacity – Full Day – 334; Part Day – 97; Extended Day – 113 = 544
  - b. Ages: 3 year olds – 263; 4 year olds – 279; 5 year olds- 0
  - c. Children with disabilities = 27 with IEP; 0 without IEP
  - d. Notes and Trends: Enrollment was down 2 Full Day slots – parents did not get appropriate paperwork in, two families withdrew due to raise in fee scale.
- Program Attendance:
  - a. 100% of enrollment - 99% of Authorized capacity
  - b. Notes and trends
- Staffing: Open Positions
  - a. Head Teacher- Cluster A, Assistant Teacher- Cluster A (new), Head Teacher- Cluster B, Assistant Teacher- Cluster B (new), Head Teacher – Cluster C (new), Teacher-Cluster D(new), Teacher – Cluster E (new), Head Teacher- Cluster F (new), Assistant Teacher – Cluster F
  - b. Recruitment – ad on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC, Craig’s list
  - c. Notes and Trends – We continue to have a difficult time finding staff with a Bachelor’s degree with 36 credits in ECE. Staff have left for other jobs in the Public Schools, jobs with summers off, and closer to home. Some openings have occurred due to current staff receiving promotions.
  - d. We have added positions to the staffing to ensure we have appropriate staff in the classrooms at a level 7 when we have Teacher openings due to FMLA or resignations.
- Training:
  - a. Julie Coakley conducted a workshop on “Analyzing Learning Experience Plans”
  - b. Staff Orientation- Epi-Pen September 20, 2012
  - c. U-Conn conducted focus group on September 25<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Training needs.
- Special Events/Activities:
  - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
  - Children have been adjusting to the program, separation from parents, routines, school rules has been constant as we delayed in filling slots, new children starting each week.
  - Several children have been identified for the Scientifically Research Based Intervention (SRBI) process. Unsafe behavioral issues have led to instituting the Provisional Policy for two children. One parent actively seeking assistance, other parent chose to withdraw.
  - Sound Waters has been visiting Cluster E. They will visit 5 times and end with a field trip to Sound Waters on October 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - Stamford Museum and Nature Center is setting up the Discovery Studio for fall. They will come four times to set up Seasonal activities. Parent Fund raising money will cover this cost.
  - Christoline Fund raisers were completed.
  - Picture days occurred September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Addendum B: Sacred Heart Report, February 2012**

### **Program Utilization:**

- School Day – School Year – 47 Students
- Pre – K 3 Class – 17
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-15
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-15
- All 26 School Readiness slots are full.

### **Program Attendance:**

- Children – 99% Colds, stomach flu
- Staff – 100%

### **Staffing:**

- New: Head Teacher – Pre-K 4 # 1 Class – Diane LaRoche – AS & BA degree-ECE
- New: Head Teacher – Pre-K 3 Class – Audra Greer – Master's degree - ECE
- New: Asst. Teacher – Pre-K 4 # 1 Class – Maria Roca - CDA
- New: Asst. Teacher – Pre-K 4 # 2 Class – JoDean Crump CDA & AS - ECE in May 13'

### **Activities & Events:**

- 8/20 – New teachers attended “New Teacher” Orientation at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport, CT
- 8/20 – New staff members were VIRTUS trained at the Catholic Center. (Sexual abuse awareness)
- 8/23 – First Staff Meeting of school year started with breakfast and included lunch.
- 8/23 – All Staff were Pediatric First Aid Trained, as well as Medication/EPI Pen Trained.
- 8/23 – Staff hosted an “Open House & Tour” of new school facility for parents.
- 8/27 – All SHS Staff members attended a breakfast & “Opening Convocation” at All Saint's School in Norwalk, CT.
- 8/28 – First day of school for all students.
- 9/6 – Parent Orientation Evening – Approximately 25 parents attended.

### **Announcement:**

- 8/6 - Called by Diocese of Bridgeport Superintendent regarding move to St. Clement's Church School Site.
- 8/8 - Visited school site which is the former Waterside School.
- 8/9 - Contacted all local and state officials in regards to what was needed to start the move to the new facility. NAEYC was also contacted.

### **Moving Update:**

We are currently waiting for 3 fire doors to be installed. Once they are installed, all 4 city officials will sign off approvals. This is then sent to the State of CT licensing specialist to set up an inspection of the new site and possible approval. Once approval is given, we can then start our move.

We have decided to move over a weekend to ensure that there are no disruptions in the school schedule. The important furniture, supplies and equipment will be moved over first to make sure that our students come into classrooms that are ready to go.